

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph 0036 as follows:

[0036] Preferably, both the base ~~12~~ 14 and the top cap 20 are formed of molded expanded polystyrene (EPS) material. Alternatively, the base 12 and/or top cap 20 may be formed of any suitable material that can be shaped, formed or die cut to make openings for receiving the corner posts.

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

An improved open-sided package assembly for protecting and cushioning a product such as a large appliance, the assembly comprising a molded ~~[[EPS]]~~ expanded polystyrene (EPS) base and top cap and four paper corner posts extending from the base to the top cap. The corner posts are shaped in such a way that when they are inserted into the base or top cap they do not fall out.